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875 [872] since not all children in Lithuania attend school all the year. First-grade and second-grade pupils in the rural districts go to school only 4 months; September 1 to November 1, and May 1 to July 1. In winter the country schools are attended only by third-, fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-grade pupils. In urban areas pupils attend throughout the school year.

871 The maintenance of elementary schools devolves on the local authorities. The costs of one school and one grade are around 11,890.-23 and 5,519.6 litas respectively. One lita is 16.93 cents in coinage of the United States. According to the figures of 1937, the cost of keeping one child in an elementary school is 99.4 litas annually. Towards the upkeep of elementary schools an average of 11.48 litas was paid by every inhabitant in 1937.

School Buildings

346 871 The school buildings are for the most part erected by the localities, grants-in-aid being made by the Ministry of Education which assigns in its budget over a million litas yearly for this purpose. At present about 80 new school buildings are constructed each year at an expenditure of two million litas. With the additional sums assigned for the acquisition of equipment and educational appliances, about three millions are spent annually.

871 On January 31, 1938, there was a total of 2,599 schools, 5,613 teachers, and 301,188 pupils or approximately 12 percent of the entire population enrolled in elementary schools.

871 873 The secondary school system was reorganized in 1936 by a special law. The 8-year gymnasia, modeled after the former Russian

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types, were replaced by 7-year gymnasia to the first year of which pupils who have finished a 6-year elementary school are automatically admitted. Thus final graduation from the secondary school now takes place after a course of study of 13 years, 6 in the elementary school and 7 in the secondary. The first three grades of the gymnasium may be founded independently and such a school [186] is called a progymnasium. In these schools instruction in the Lithuanian language and literature, and in physical science has been especially strengthened, and French introduced as the first foreign language. The curriculum as it is now arranged for the gymnasia is as follows:

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Subjects of instruction	Hours a week by grades—							
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	Total
Religion	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	14
Lithuanian language and general literature	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	30
French	6	6	4	3	3	3	3	28
Second foreign language (German, English, or Russian)	---	---	---	5	5	5	3	18
Latin	---	---	4	4	4	3	3	18
History	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	17
Citizenship	---	---	---	---	---	---	2	2
Elements of philosophy	---	---	---	---	---	2	2	4
Geography	---	2	2	2	2	2	---	10
Mathematics	4	3	3	3	3	3	4	23
Natural sciences	4	3	2	3	3	3	4	22
Drawing	3	2	2	2	1	2	2	14
Physical culture and pre-military training for boys	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	28
Physical culture for girls	3	3	3	2	2	2	3	18
Manual training and housekeeping for girls	1	2	2	2	2	3	---	12
Music and singing	2	2	2	2	2	---	---	10
Total for girls	32	32	32	36	36	37	35	240
Total for boys	32	31	31	36	36	36	36	238

All the subjects listed are compulsory. Pupils who do not do well in any of them are not granted the secondary school leaving certificate. In the schools of national minorities in which the language of instruction is not Lithuanian, the program is quite different.

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[563] Instead of the second foreign language, the language of instruction and general literature are taught. There are only 23 weekly lessons in French, 12 in drawing, 25 in physical culture and pre-military training, and 9 in manual training and housekeeping for girls.

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Schools Public or Private

871 658 Nineteen thousand nine hundred and thirty-nine secondary school students were attending 66 gymnasia and 34 progymnasia in 1937; in 1919 there were 5 gymnasia and 33 progymnasia with 9,213 students. These schools may be either State (public) or private. The former are founded and maintained by the State; the latter, with the permission of the Minister of Education, by corporations, ecclesiastical orders, and private individuals. All the private schools are under the control of the Ministry of Education which grants subventions toward their maintenance, sends official delegates to inspect the work carried on in them, and appoints their teachers. The students in some of the private gymnasia enjoy all the privileges extended to students in the State schools. In others they do not, and in order to acquire those rights the students must at the end of their course of study, pass examinations in the State schools or in their own schools in the presence of a delegate of the Ministry of Education. The relative numerical status of the two types of schools is:

Type	Progymnasia	Gymnasia
State	22	33
Private:		
Lithuanian	2	10
Jewish	5	14
German	4	5
Latvian	1	
Polish		3
Russian		1

562 873 Nine gymnasia and one progymnasium have been especially set aside for the education of girls, and eight for the education of boys. All

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562 the others are mixed but in the larger schools
873 in which parallel classes exist, separate classes for boys and girls are established.

875 The extension of the network of secondary
[658] schools produced in the first years of Lithuania's independence a shortage of teachers, and educating a staff was undertaken by the State. Teachers were trained in foreign universities, and from 1922 onwards in the University of Vytautas the Great in Kaunas, as well. Most of the 1,432 teachers now employed are university graduates and possess the qualifications required by the Ministry of Education. They are classified as junior teachers, teachers, and senior teachers. The rank of junior teacher is granted to persons who have taken a university course in psychology, pedagogics, the history of pedagogics, pedology, and the methodology of their specialties, or have passed examinations in these subjects and have completed their studies in the subjects necessary for the teaching of their specialty. Junior teachers who have taught successfully not less than 2 years and have conducted two probational lessons in their specialty may be elevated by the Ministry of Education to the rank of teachers. Teachers who have taught with outstanding success for at least 5 years may be raised to senior teachers.

School Competitions

873 A State physical culture badge to encourage
555 physical fitness, scout troops and circles, camps for students, and travel during the vacation period are all connected with secondary education, but perhaps the most noteworthy activity to promote all-sided scholastic progress and interscholastic cooperation is the school competitions that were organized first in 1935 and take place at the end of the school year.

In these competitions the secondary schools strive for supremacy in the reading and recitation of Lithuanian, French, and German, drawing, singing, and physical culture. In

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●873 555 each school near the close of the year, the pupils who have shown the most ability are selected from each class. The pick of these are chosen, in the course of a public performance, to represent the gymnasium in the district contest. The picked teams, usually numbering 1,000 to 1,500 students, meet on an appointed day to compete for first place in the district. From them the best readers, reciters, draughtsmen, choirs, sportsmen, etc., are selected to participate in the finals which take place most often at Kaunas. There the teams from the seven districts into which Lithuania is divided for this purpose, compete for the National first, second, and third places. On this occasion festivities on a larger scale are organized and the winners are awarded special prizes. The competitions have been found to promote a will to work among the students, and give them an opportunity to acquire a better knowledge of their country and to make useful personal contacts with their fellow students.

873 The institutions of higher education are the University of Vytautas the Great, the Veterinary Academy, State Conservatory of Music, and State Art School, all at Kaunas; Agricultural Academy at Dotnuva; and the Private Commercial Institute, Pedagogical Institute, and Music School, all at Klaipeda. They enroll approximately 4,400 students. The university began in 1579 as the High School of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, was later converted into a university, and was closed by the Russians in 1832. As early as December 5, 1918, the Lithuanian State Council passed statutes for this University of Vilnius and it was on the point of reopening in 1919, but military operations intervened and it was not definitely founded until February 16, 1922, at Kaunas. In 1930, when the five hundredth anniversary of the Grand Duke of Lithuania, Vytautas the Great, who ruled over a Lithuania that extended from the Baltic to the Black Sea, was celebrated with great pomp, the university was renamed in his honor. It is an autonomous institution the powers of which are fixed by the statutes. It is maintained by the state and is connected with the Ministry of Education. During the 16 years of its recent existence, the university has developed into an important educational center which devotes special attention to the study of the Lithuanian language and history.

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